ROLLING KNOLLS LF
GREEN VILLAGE, NJ

Background

The Rolling Knolls Landfill site is in Chatham, New Jersey. A portion of the nearly 200-acre site was used primarily as a municipal landfill for over 30 years. The landfill operated from the early 1930s to 1968 and received a variety of waste, including household garbage, construction and demolition debris, industrial waste, septic waste and scrap metal. Mismanagement of this waste contaminated the area's soil and groundwater.

Most of the landfill is under private ownership. However, approximately 35 acres are owned by the U.S. Department of Interior (DOI) and managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) as part of the 7,700-acre Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge near the site.

EPA placed the site on the Superfund National Priorities List in September 2003. ~~The Rolling Knolls Landfill site is located in Chatham, New Jersey. A portion of the nearly 200-acre site was used primarily as a municipal landfill for just over 30 years. The landfill operated from the early 1930's to 1968 and received waste from various parties, including household garbage, construction and demolition debris, industrial waste, septic waste and scrap metal. The Site has mixed ownership. The majority of the landfill area is privately owned, but approximately 35 acres are owned by the U.S. Department of Interior (DOI) and managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) as part of the 7,700-acre Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, which is adjacent to the Site.~~

~~After initial investigations, EPA placed the site on the Superfund program's National Priorities List in September 2003.~~

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What Has Been Done to Clean Up the Site?

The parties responsible for contamination called potentially responsible parties (PRPs) agreed to conduct and pay for a thorough investigation of the site in 2005 to determine the nature and extent of the contamination. Following the investigation, the PRPs would then identify potential cleanup methods to address the contamination and submitted them to EPA for review.

EPA approved the PRPs' investigation work plan, and fieldwork began in July 2007.

The fieldwork included visual inspections and sampling of soil, groundwater, surface water (lakes and creeks) and sediment. EPA oversaw all fieldwork, including the human health risk assessment and ecological risk assessment.

The investigation was completed in January 2018, identifying the nature and extent of contamination at the site. ~~A human health risk assessment was completed in 2014 and the ecological risk assessment was completed in December 2016. The Remedial Investigation was completed in January 2018 and identifies the nature and extent of contamination at the site. The human health risk assessment was updated in July 2018.~~

What Is the Current Site Status?

Under EPA oversight, the PRPs completed an ecological risk assessment in 2013 and a human health risk assessment in 2014. The assessments identified unacceptable risks to current and future human exposure and wildlife. EPA requested that both assessments be updated in 2018 to include current toxicity information, revised exposure scenarios and a re-evaluation of lead in soil to match current guidelines.

The PRPs completed their in-depth investigation in January 2018 and are currently identifying cleanup options to fully address the human and environmental risks posed by site contamination. Once completed, EPA will review these options and decide on a preferred cleanup method. ~~A baseline human health risk assessment was completed in 2014 and identified unacceptable risks to current and future trespassers and potential future residential occupants. The baseline risk assessment was evaluated in 2016 to assess data gap sampling results and the risks identified remained the same. The baseline human health risk assessment was updated via a memo in July 2018 to include updated toxicity information, revised exposure scenario for trespassers/passive recreators and a re-evaluation of lead in soil due to new guidelines.~~

~~A screening level ecological risk assessment was completed in 2013 and was followed by a baseline ecological risk assessment which was completed in December 2016 and updated in May 2018 via technical memo to recalculate site-wide risk.~~

~~The remedial investigation to characterize the nature and extent of contamination was completed in January 2018. A feasibility study is underway and will identify cleanup alternatives that will address risks posed by site contamination. EPA will develop a cleanup plan based on the feasibility study.~~

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What Are the Risks at the Site?

The site is bounded by private residential properties to the north and northwest. While most of the site is privately held in a trust, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service owns

about 35 acres of the site, which is part of the 7,800-acre Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge that surrounds the site on the south, east and west. Potentially exposed human populations were evaluated for existing and future site conditions and include landscapers, recreators, trespassers, off-site residents, construction workers and future on-site residents. Access to the site is limited by surrounding wetlands and the property owners have posted no trespassing signs at the Britten Road access point. The landowners closely monitor for trespasser activity.

A baseline human health risk assessment was completed in 2014 and identified potential site risks to trespassers and future residential occupants. The baseline risk assessment was evaluated in 2016 to assess data gap sampling results and the risks identified remain the same. The baseline human health risk assessment was updated July 2018 to include updated toxicity information, revised exposure scenario for trespassers/passive recreators and a re-evaluation of [HYPERLINK "https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/tfacts13.pdf"] in soil due to new guidelines. The human health risk assessment found that cancer risks posed by the site are not elevated for a future user of the site (a trespasser or a passive recreator) and that non-cancer hazard is only slightly elevated. The primary risk drivers at the site are [HYPERLINK "https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/tfacts17.pdf"].

A screening level ecological risk assessment was completed in 2013 and was followed by a baseline ecological risk assessment which was completed in December 2016 and updated in May 2018.